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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 55th, 56th and 62nd meetings, on 10, 11 and 27 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.55, 56 and 62).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (A/53/821 and A/53/844 and Corr.1 and 2) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/895 and Add.4).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.54

4. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Poland and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" (A/C.5/53/L.54), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.54 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, by which the Council approved the deployment of an advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers for a period of three months and the incorporation of the advance team into a United Nations observer mission if such a mission was formally established by the Council,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1225 (1999) of 28 January 1999,

Recalling further its decision 48/475 A of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/242 of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia as at 30 April 1999, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 8.8 million United States dollars, representing 11 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 30 June 1999, notes that

[1] A/53/821 and A/53/844 and Corr.1 and 2.

[2] A/53/895 and Add.4.

some 16 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 290,200 dollars gross (485,200 dollars net), for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, in addition to the amount of 18,580,500 dollars gross (17,582,100 dollars net) already appropriated under the terms of General Assembly resolution 51/236 of 13 June 1997 and inclusive of the amount of 290,200 dollars gross (485,200 dollars net) from the amount of 1,653,600 dollars authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under the terms of section IV of Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994;

9. *Decides also* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia the amount of 31,000,479 dollars gross (29,505,279 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, inclusive of the amount of 1,541,759 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 302,320 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi;

10. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 2,583,373 dollars gross (2,458,773 dollars net) for the period from 1 to 31 July 1999 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996, and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

11. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 10 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of

[3] A/53/895/Add.4.

the estimated staff assessment income of 124,600 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 to 31 July 1999;

12. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 28,417,103 dollars gross (27,046,503 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000, at a monthly rate of 2,583,373 dollars gross (2,458,773 dollars net) in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1999 and 2000, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 31 July 1999;

13. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,370,600 dollars approved for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000;

14. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia".